

Message Text

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EYES ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR TOON (NEA)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS

SUBJECT: EVRON-TOON CONVERSATION

1. HERE IS A SUMMARY REPORT OF YOUR CONVERSATION WITH EVRON AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT NOVEMBER 23. (NOT ALL OF EVRON'S COMMENTS WERE AUDIBLE FROM WHERE I SAT.)

2. SUMMARY: EVRON SAID THAT ALLON HAD ASKED HIM TO COME TO THE AIRPORT TO SEE THE AMBASSADOR PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR CONSULTATION. ALLON REGRETTED THAT HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN UNABLE TO SEE THE AMBASSADOR SINCE HIS RETURN FROM EUROPE LATE LAST WEEK. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE ALSO WAS SORRY NOT TO HAVE SEEN ALLON BUT WOULD CALL UPON HIM AFTER HIS RETURN.

3. EVRON SAID THAT ALLON WANTED THE AMBASSADOR TO KNOW THAT BOTH RABIN AND HE WERE DISSATISFIED WITH CERTAIN RECENT EVENTS WHICH HAD A BEARING ON U.S./ISRAELI RELATIONS. THE RESULT OF THESE EVENTS WAS THAT THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WAS NOT AS GOOD AS IT SHOULD BE. EVRON EXPLAINED THAT THESE EVENTS INCLUDED THE SAUNDERS STATEMENT AND THE FACT THAT OUR AMBASSADORS, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR TOON, WERE BEING BROUGHT BACK FOR CONSULTATION ABOUT WHICH THE ISRAELIS KNEW LITTLE. THEY COULD, HOWEVER, BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE RESULTS. THERE WAS ALSO SOME QUESTION NOW WHETHER THE EGYPTIANS REALLY MEANT TO CARRY OUT THE TERMS OF SINAI II IN GOOD FAITH. CERTAINLY SOME OF THE RECENT SIGNS HAD NOT BEEN PROMISING IN THIS

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REGARD. AS AN EXAMPLE, EVRON REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT THE

EGYPTIANS HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF ISRAELI USE OF THE JERUSALEM AIRPORT AT AN ICAO MEETING LAST WEEK. WHY SHOULD THEY BRING UP THAT SUBJECT AT THIS TIME, AND WHY IN ANY CASE SHOULD IT BE THE EGYPTIANS? THE AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT IT WAS NOT EASY TO UNDERSTAND THE EGYPTIAN REASON FOR DOING THIS.

4. EVRON SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF DINITZ' MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY LAST WEEK, THEY EXPECTED THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD FIND SOME OPPORTUNITY TO DISSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM THE SAUNDERS STATEMENT. IT TURNED OUT THAT THIS STATEMENT HAD NOT EVEN BEEN SEEN BY SISCO BEFORE DELIVERY.

5. EVRON SAID HE COULD ONLY SUM UP BY SAYING THAT THE MOOD HERE WAS "HARDENING," AND RABIN HAD TO TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT. RABIN'S POSITION WAS NOT ALL THAT STRONG SINCE THERE WAS GROWING DISCONTENT OVER DOMESTIC MATTERS. EVRON REMARKED LIGHTLY THAT THE AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN RIGHT WHEN HE TOLD THE ISRAELIS THEY SHOULD "TIGHTEN THEIR BELTS." THE ONLY PROBLEM WAS THEY WERE NOT TIGHTENING THEM ENOUGH.

6. TURNING TO SYRIA, THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT WHEN THEY HAD TALKED FRIDAY MORNING, RABIN HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE RATHER CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE TERRORISTS WHO HAD KILLED SEVERAL ISRAELIS THE PREVIOUS DAY HAD COME FROM SYRIA AND RETURNED THERE. THERE HAD SEEMED LITTLE DOUBT IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S MIND THAT THE SYRIANS WERE AWARE OF, IF NOT ENCOURAGING, THESE INCURSIONS INTO ISRAEL. WHAT WAS STILL UNCLEAR WAS THE EXTENT OF SOVIET-SYRIAN COLLABORATION. EVRON AND THE AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT WHILE THE SOVIETS PROBABLY DO NOT CONTROL SYRIAN ACTIONS, THEY ARE INFLUENTIAL AND SEEM TO BE DOING NOTHING TO DISCOURAGE SYRIA'S HOSTILE BEHAVIOR.

7. EVRON SAID THAT THE PROSPECT OF WALDHEIM'S ARRIVAL NOVEMBER 24 WAS CAUSING THE GOVERNMENT DIFFICULTY DUE TO HIS MEETING WITH ARAFAT IN DAMASCUS, A MEETING WHICH THE ISRAELIS REGARDED AS UN-NECESSARY IF NOT IRRESPONSIBLE. IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH WALDHEIM'S PRINCIPAL TASK OF SEEING THAT THE UNDOF MANDATE WAS RENEWED, AND IT GAVE A NEW BOOST TO ARAFAT AND HIS PRETENSIONS. IF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAD KNOWN THAT WALDHEIM PLANNED TO MEET

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WITH ARAFAT, IT WOULD NOT HAVE INVITED HIM TO ISRAEL. EVRON SAID THAT HIS OWN RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT RABIN NOT RECEIVE WALDHEIM, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE ACCEPTED.

8. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT, DESPITE THE PROVOCATION, RABIN SHOULD NOT ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS OF THE FOUR SETTLEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN PROPOSED AND WHICH HE KNEW THE

CABINET WAS CONSIDERING. TO PERMIT THOSE SETTLEMENTS AT THIS TIME WOULD MERELY COMPLICATE THE TASK OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY WHO ARE TRYING TO KEEP THE MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE GOING FORWARD. EVRON SAID HE UNDERSTOOD, BUT HE DID NOT COMMENT ON WHAT ACTION THE CABINET MIGHT TAKE.

9. EVRON SAID THAT HE WAS PLASED TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT, ON THE BASIS OF REPORTS FROM DINITZ, IT SEEMED THAT THE MILITARY SUPPLY PROBLEM WAS BEGINNING TO LOOSEN. THE ONLY PROBLEM NOW APPEARED TO BE THE DELIVERY DATE FOR THE F-15S. THE ISRALEIS HAD BEEN PROMISED THESE FOR LATE 1976, BUT WERE NOW BEING TOLD THAT THE PLANES WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL JANUARY 1978 AT THE EARLIEST. THIS WAS DISTURBING IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE SYRIANS WERE NOW BEING EQUIPPED WITH MIG-23S AND 25S. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THE DETAILS REGARDING THE DELIVERY OF F-15S. END SUMMARY.
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